

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****SB155**

Question Serial No.

2435

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title):Programme: All ProgrammesControlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the consultations for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies under all Programmes, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

Please provide information of projects to which funds have been allocated for conducting consultations in 2009-10 by using the following format.

Title / content of consultations	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of consultations (under planning / in progress / completed)	Mode of consultations (e.g. collection of written comments, public consultation forums and focus groups), frequency, names of bodies consulted, number of persons consulted	Follow-up actions by the Administration in response to the consultation results and the progress of such actions (if any)	If completed, have such consultation results been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply: In 2009-10, a consultation on the Medical Priority Dispatch System was conducted by the Security Bureau and the Fire Services Department. The expenditure involved was borne by the Security Bureau.

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Name in block letters LO CHUN HUNGPost Title Director of Fire ServicesDate 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB156

Question Serial No.

2436

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: All Programmes

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the consultations for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies under all Programmes, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

Are funds reserved for conducting consultations in 2010-11? If yes, please provide the following information:

Title / content of consultations	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of consultations (under planning / in progress / completed)	Mode of consultations (e.g. collection of written comments, public consultation forums and focus groups), frequency, names of bodies consulted, number of persons consulted	Will the consultations that are expected to be completed in the financial year 2010-11 be released to the public? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply: As far as 2010-11 is concerned, the Fire Services Department has no plan to conduct consultations for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB157

Question Serial No.

0483

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the estimate for operational expenses in 2010-11, please provide the following information:

- (a) The estimate for “job-related allowances” is 78% higher than the revised figure in 2009-10. Please set out the details of the newly-introduced “job-related allowances” and the allocation of funding among different “job-related allowances”; and
- (b) The estimate for “specialist supplies and equipment” shows a multiple increase. Please provide details on how the funding would be allocated.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

- Reply:
- (a) There is a 78% increase in Fire Services Department's (FSD's) estimate for “job-related allowances” in 2010-11 as against the revised estimate for 2009-10, which is mainly for a newly-introduced “Special Allowance for Specialist Duties Performed by Fire and Ambulance Personnel” (the “Special Allowance”). The Special Allowance is payable to eligible fire and ambulance personnel in FSD for performance of duties which require special competence and involve exceptional danger, risk and hardship. Provision for introducing the Special Allowance was approved by the Legislative Council's Finance Committee in December 2009.
 - (b) The provision for FSD's “specialist supplies and equipment” in 2010-11 will mainly be used to replace fire tunic and overtrousers for fire personnel, which will involve about \$89 million.

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Name in block letters LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB158

Question Serial No.

1735

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11" under the Programme, the Administration indicates that it will "continue to strengthen and promote occupational safety and health to all staff of the Department". Will the Administration advise:

- (a) How many staff members of the Department were injured during duty hours or injured while performing duties in 2009-10?
- (b) How will the Department promote occupational safety and health in 2010-11? How much expenditure and manpower will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

- Reply:
- (a) In 2009-10 (as at 28 February 2010), a total of 248 staff members of the Fire Services Department (FSD) were injured during duty hours. Among them, 141 were injured while performing duties.
 - (b) FSD has all along been promoting occupational safety and health (OSH) in the Department. An OSH Unit comprising 7 members has been established in the Department's Headquarters Command to coordinate and promote departmental programmes on OSH, including the formulation of OSH policies, the implementation of a full-scale safety management system and the development of a set of job-related safety procedures. FSD has planned to further strengthen the safety management work in 2010-11 by conducting on-site inspections and reviewing the effectiveness of improvement measures. Meanwhile, the Department will continue to organise OSH training courses and publicity activities with a view to enhancing staff members' knowledge and awareness of OSH. The Department estimates that the expenditure involved in 2010-11 will be \$5.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services

Date _____ 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB159

Question Serial No.

2621

Head: 45 Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title):Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Fire Services Department will create 57 posts in 2010-11. Please provide details of these posts, including their ranks and salaries, as well as the justifications for the creation of these posts.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, AbrahamReply: Fire Services Department (FSD) will create 57 posts in 2010-11, with details as follows:

Rank	Annual Expenditure on salary per person (based on notional annual mid-point salary)	No. of post(s) created/ deleted	Reason(s) for creation of the post(s)
Senior Station Officer/ Station Officer	\$572,850	8	To enhance live-fire training for frontline fire personnel
Senior Fireman	\$289,260	2	
Clerical Assistant	\$147,720	2	To handle clerical and related matters for the FSD's uniformed members.
Superintendent (Ambulance)	\$819,060	2	To strengthen frontline management of ambulance service
Senior Ambulance Officer	\$655,980	2	To create supervisory posts of the Senior Ambulance Officer rank for Tai Chik Sha Ambulance Depot and Penny's Bay Ambulance Depot
Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	\$983,640	1	To strengthen the management structure of the Ambulance Command to enhance the ambulance service and the management and utilisation of resources concerned.
Superintendent (Ambulance)	\$819,060	2	
Senior Ambulance Officer	\$655,980	1	
Ambulance Officer	\$444,360	6	
Executive Officer II	\$350,820	1	
Senior Ambulanceman	\$289,260	10	To operate five additional ambulance shifts so as to cope with the demand for emergency ambulance service.
Ambulanceman	\$208,980	20	
<i>Total:</i>		57	

Signature _____

Name in block letters LO CHUN HUNGPost Title Director of Fire ServicesDate 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****SB160**

Question Serial No.

2542

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title):Programme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Provision for this year (i.e. 2010-11) increases by \$121.9 million (5%). The Department states that this is mainly due to initiatives such as (1) "the full-year effect of vacancies filled in 2009-10"; (2) "net increase of 12 posts in 2010-11"; and (3) "additional provision for introducing a job-related allowance for eligible fire personnel". Would the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) the provision required for each of the three initiatives mentioned above;
- (b) the total number of vacancies filled by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in 2009-10 and their respective ranks;
- (c) the reason(s) for FSD to create 12 posts in 2010-11 and the ranks involved; and
- (d) the details of the newly-introduced job-related allowance and the eligibility criteria.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply: (a) As against the revised estimates for 2009-10, there is an increase of \$121.9 million in FSD's provision under the programme "Fire Service" in 2010-11. The increase is mainly for the three initiatives with provisions listed below:

(1)	The full-year effect of vacancies filled in 2009-10	\$52.09 million
(2)	Expenditure on the net increase of 12 posts in 2010-11	\$5.46 million
(3)	Expenditure on introducing a job-related allowance for eligible fire personnel	\$25.23 million
	Total:	\$82.78 million

- (b) The total number of vacancies filled by FSD in 2009-10 under the programme "Fire Service" and their respective ranks are as follows:

Rank	Number of vacancies filled in 2009-10
Station Officer	34
Fireman	200
Station Officer (Control)	2
Senior Fireman (Control)	15
Total:	251

- (c) Details of the 12 posts to be created under the programme “Fire Service” in 2010-11 are as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be created / deleted	Reason for creation of posts
Senior Station Officer / Station Officer	8	To enhance live-fire training for frontline fire personnel
Senior Fireman	2	
Clerical Assistant	2	To handle clerical and related matters for the FSD's uniformed members
Total:	12	

- (d) In 2010-11, a provision is allocated to FSD for the payment of a newly-introduced “Special Allowance for Specialist Duties Performed by Fire and Ambulance Personnel” (the “Special Allowance”). The Special Allowance consists of two tiers. Tier 1 of the allowance is payable to qualified members of the Fireman Grade who are required to perform conduit rescue, basic Special Rescue Squad and First Responder duties. There are two categories in Tier 2 of the allowance, namely “Technical Rescue” and “Tactical Response”. Technical Rescue Allowance is payable to qualified fire and ambulance personnel in the Special Rescue Squad, while Tactical Response Allowance is payable to members of the HazMat Task Force and qualified members of the Fireman Grade in fire stations for dealing with nuclear and radiological materials, as well as biological and chemical incidents. Qualified fire or ambulance personnel who have completed the necessary training and deployed to perform related duties are eligible for the Special Allowance.

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Name in block letters _____ LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Fire Services

Date _____ 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB161

Question Serial No.

2798

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Among the indicators under this programme, “emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage” has been rising continuously from 43 741 in 2008 to an estimated 47 000 in the coming year, i.e. a daily average of over 128 rounds of emergency move-ups of fire appliances to handle calls from other districts. Would the Department reply to the following:

- a) the reason(s) for “emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage”;
- b) why emergency move-ups have occurred scores of thousand rounds every year (there were only 35 135 rounds in 2007) and why does the situation keep deteriorating; and
- c) has the Department formulated any measures to curb the number of emergency move-ups of appliances to provide operational coverage? If yes, what are the measures? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

- Reply:
- a) Emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage mainly refer to the arrangement when all major fire appliances in a fire station have been turned out for emergency services, the Fire Services Communications Centre will immediately re-deploy fire appliances from other fire stations to that station to ensure that major fire appliances are available on stand-by and ready for handling emergency calls in all districts at all times.
 - b) In the past two years, there was a progressive increase in the number of fire, special service and First Responder calls, leading to an increase in the number of emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage. The Fire Services Department has made reference to past figures when projecting the number of emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage in 2010.
 - c) The arrangement of emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage is essential for effective deployment of resources so that major fire appliances are available on stand-by in all districts. Such temporary move-up arrangements do not have any significant impact on the daily operation of the fire stations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **LO CHUN HUNG**

Post Title _____ **Director of Fire Services**

Date _____ **17.3.2010**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB162

Question Serial No.

2799

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: As indicated in "Matters Requiring Special Attention" under the Programme, the Administration will "prepare for the replacement of the existing radio communications system" and "replace the fire tunic and overtrousers for fire personnel". Will the Administration give reasons and details for the proposed replacement, the estimated expenditure and schedule.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply: The Fire Services Department (FSD) has planned to replace the existing analogue radio communications system with a new digital system. Upon commissioning, the new system will be used by all staff members, including frontline fire personnel. The capital expenditure of the replacement will be \$178 million, and the funding has been approved by the Finance Committee in May 2009. The new system is expected to be commissioned by July 2011.

To further ensure the occupational safety of fire personnel, the Administration has proposed to earmark \$89 million to replace the fire tunic and overtrousers for all fire personnel. It is expected that the new fire tunic and overtrousers will be delivered in March 2011.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-SB012

Question Serial No.

S027

Head: 45 Fire Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

- Question:
- (a) Please list out all the fire protection equipment procured in the past three years for the improvement and enhancement of the safety of fire personnel and the expenditures involved; and
 - (b) Does the Administration have any plans to procure equipment for improving and enhancing the safety of fire personnel in 2010-11 and beyond? If yes, please provide detailed progress of such plans and their estimated expenditures.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

- Reply:
- (a) Fire Services Department (FSD) is always committed to providing the best protective equipment and clothing for its frontline personnel to ensure their operational safety and efficiency. The protective equipment procured in the past three years for the improvement and enhancement of the safety of fire personnel and the expenditures involved are set out below:

Equipment	Expenditure
1 500 breathing apparatus of new specifications	\$45 million
12 125 anti-flash hoods	\$2.55 million
High angle rescue equipment, including 1 700 helmets, 1 700 pairs of gloves and other ancillary equipment	\$2.35 million
5 900 pairs of firefighter's gloves	\$2.06 million
4 600 pairs of firefighter's boots	\$1.81 million
Personal protective equipment for the Urban Search and Rescue Team, including protective clothing, helmets, boots and other ancillary equipment	\$0.8 million

- (b) In 2010-11 and beyond, FSD plans to procure the following protective equipment for improving and enhancing the safety of fire personnel and the expenditures involved are set out below:

Equipment	Estimated Expenditure	Progress
13 000 sets of fire tunic and overtrousers	\$89 million	Calling for tender, expected delivery by March 2011
4 400 sets of high angle rescue helmets and gloves	\$3.5 million	Procurement procedures underway
1 000 sets of protective clothing for the Urban Search and Rescue Team	\$0.8 million	Procurement procedures underway

Signature _____

Name in block letters LO CHUN HUNG

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 8.4.2010